

Appl. No. 09/784,693

Reply to Office Action dated Sep. 27, 2004

Response dated December 27, 2004

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An improved cap for sealed joints between adjacent blocks, comprising:
  - a) a flexible body member, comprising a first cap portion and a leg portion;
  - b) a plurality of ridges positioned across the entire [on an] underside of the cap portion contacting sealant, [having] the ridges defining a plurality of channels there between, the ridges further defining an increased area on the underside of the cap for sealant to adhere to;
  - c) the leg portion insertable into fluidized sealant material within the joint between the adjacent blocks, to a depth so that the underside of the cap portion imbeds into the sealant material for providing a scaled connection between the entire underside of the cap portion and the fluidized sealant material residing in the joint and on an upper surfaces of the adjacent blocks.
2. (Previously Presented) The improved cap in claim 1, wherein the cap is constructed of material having the characteristics of lead.
3. (Original) The improved cap in claim 1, wherein the leg member further comprises a pointed end having shoulder members for adhering within the sealant material.
4. (Original) The improved cap in claim 1, wherein the plurality of ridges and channels on the underside of the cap portion define a means for adhering to the fluidized sealant and the upper portion of the adjacent blocks for withstanding movement and preventing damage to the sealed joint.
5. (Original) The improved cap in claim 1, wherein the cap may be positioned to seal a joint between horizontal and vertical surfaces.
6. (Currently Amended) An improved cap for sealed joints between adjacent building members, comprising:
  - a) a flexible body member, comprising a first cap portion having a first smooth upper surface, an undersurface, and a leg portion extending down from the undersurface;
  - b) a plurality of ridges positioned [on] across and contacting substantially the entire undersurface of the cap portion, defining a plurality of channels there between, the plurality of ridges

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and channels increasing the surface area on the underside of the cap by around 50% for the sealant to adhere to, thus strengthening the seal between the cap and the concrete or stone blocks the cap is set upon;

c) fluidized sealant material placed within the joint between the adjacent building members;

d) the leg portion insertable into the fluidized sealant material to a depth so that the underside of the cap portion imbeds into the sealant material for providing a sealed connection between the underside of the cap and the fluidized sealant material residing in the joint and on surfaces of the adjacent blocks.

7. (Previously Presented) The improved cap in claim 6, wherein the sealant material comprises caulking.

8. (Previously Presented) The improved cap in claim 6, wherein the underside of the cap increases the area for the sealant to adhere to, improving bonding between the cap and the stones and strengthening the seal between the two.

9. (Original) The improved cap in claim 6, wherein the cap comprises a continuous strip of flexible material extending uninterrupted over the joint which needs to be sealed.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of sealing a joint between adjacent building blocks, comprising the following steps:

a) filling the joint with a fluidized sealing material such as caulking;

b) providing a cap, the cap having a cap portion and a downward depending leg portion;

c) inserting the leg portion down in to the fluidized sealing material to a point that an underside of the cap portion makes sealing contact with the fluidized sealing material;

d) providing a plurality of ridges on an underside of the cap and contacting sealant across the entire underside of the cap, [which define] the ridges defining a plurality of channels there between [underside of the cap portion], the ridges and channels increasing the area on the underside of the cap for the sealant to adhere to, improving the bond between the cap and the stones and strengthening the seal between the two.

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11. (Original) The method in claim 10, further comprising the step of removing the excess sealant material from around the cap before the sealant completely sets.

12. (Original) The method in claim 10, the insertion of the leg portion of the cap down into the sealing material decreases the size of a joint by one half therefore defining two joint spaces, rather than a single space.